United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway Eastern District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: December 12, 2006 www.doj.gov/edmo CONTACT: JAN DILTZ PHONE: (314) 539-7719 FAX: (314) 539-2309

ST. PETERS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, MO - Michael Kincade pled guilty to possessing over 600 images of child pornography on his computer, United States Attorney Catherine Hanaway announced today.

On September 28, 2005, investigators for the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department conducting an on-line peer-to-peer undercover operation determined that a computer located at the residence of Michael Kincade contained images of child pornography. On-line peer-to-peer programs allow computer users to share computer files containing pictures, videos, or music. On November 23, 2005, the same investigators executed a search warrant at his residence and found over 600 images of child pornography on his computer. Kincade admitted possessing this child pornography and admitted obtaining it over the Internet using a software program known as "Limewire Pro." A subsequent forensic examination determined that the child pornography involved children under the age of 12 engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Kincade, 58, 1000 block of Kimberly Lane, St. Peters, Missouri, pled guilty to one felony count of possession of child pornography. He appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry. Kincade now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, when he is sentenced on March 2, 2007.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement as part of the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group.

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